



## **PLANNING AHEAD 2010 HURRICANE SEASON QUICKLISTS**

### **BEFORE A STORM: Inspect and Prepare Your Home and Garden**

These tips were abridged from The Miami Herald's "Hurricane Preparation 2009" insert.

The ideal time to check the items on this list is before hurricane season begins on June 1.

- ☐ Check the roof and structure of your home for any problems and make repairs. Ensure that the roof has proper overflow drainage, especially on flat roofs.
- ☐ Check for clogged or loose rain gutters and drain spouts. Clean and reattach as necessary.
- ☐ Reinforce the garage door and tracks with center supports.
- ☐ Check the operation of shutters for windows, sliding doors, outside doors, skylights, open vents and the garage door.
  - ☐ Make sure each nonpermanent shutter is clearly marked with its location (aluminum or clear panels, Bahama shutters, plywood panels). Plywood should be a last resort; if not properly attached it can fly off during high winds and damage property.
  - ☐ Make sure you have all the necessary mounting hardware including tracks attached to walls with concrete screws.
  - ☐ Make sure permanent shutters operate smoothly in their tracks (accordion, sliding) or roll down easily.
- ☐ Do a practice shutter installation especially if you bought a new house or new shutters. Time the process, and find out if you need help to install shutters quickly.
- ☐ If you are ordering new shutters, you can check a Miami-Dade County Building Code Compliance database for products, certificates and listings that have been approved for use on buildings in both Miami-Dade County and throughout the country. Go to [www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode/pc-search\\_app.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/buildingcode/pc-search_app.asp).
- ☐ Tree and palm trimming plus yard debris removal: Do this well ahead of time – DO NOT begin this task when a storm threatens.
  - ☐ Remove coconuts and trim palm fronds.
  - ☐ Trim dead and crossing tree limbs.
  - ☐ Do not work near power lines. If you hire a contractor, make sure the company is qualified to trim vegetation around power lines.

## HOME/GARDEN – VKB 2010 Hurricane Season Quicklist, pg. 2

- ❑ Make a plan where to store outdoor furniture and potted plants. This plan should include what to do with anything that can blow away, including grills, garden tools, toys, mail boxes, garbage cans and TV antennas (be careful not to touch electrical wiring).
- ❑ Test your generator and chainsaw and check your fire extinguisher for proper operation. A Generator Safety checklist is available as a PDF file at the Village website Hurricane/Flood Information webpage.
- ❑ Check the operation of all battery-powered devices and stock up on appropriate batteries.
- ❑ Stock up on supplies you may need, such as rolls of plastic sheeting (to cover indoor furniture), heavy plastic sheeting, nails and a can of roofing tar to patch damaged roof sections).
- ❑ Identify a safe room where you can shelter in place if needed. Appropriate areas are interior hallways, closets or rooms with no windows.
- ❑ Ensure that your homeowner, windstorm and flood insurance policies are in effect and meet your coverage needs. DO THIS IN ADVANCE.
- ❑ Take “before” pictures of your home and store them in a safe place (preferably in your important document evacuation kit).